* 8.5 per cent for consumption expenditure;
* 10.2 per cent for marriages and ceremonies;
* 2.5 per cent for medical treatment; and
* 12.0 per cent for other expenses.

(c) The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) Report No. 498 referred to in Part (a) does not indicate the reasons for increase in farmers' indebtedness. However, the survey treats the farmer households having a liability in cash or kind with value of Rs. 300 or more as indebted farmer households.

**Foreign expertise in removing pollutants from water**

*195. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign countries have offered their expertise in removing pollutants from water bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether U.K. has also expressed its willingness to extend help in cleaning of the Ganga and other major rivers in the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has provided technical assistance for the Development Study relating to "Water Quality Management Plan for Ganga" with focus along stretches of four towns namely, Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad and Varanasi. The JICA Study Team/ Consultants selected by JICA for carrying out the study started their work from March, 2003 and completed it in August/September, 2005. The study basically envisaged formulation of the Master Plans and Feasibility Studies for the sewerage (including sewage treatment) and non-sewerage components for the four towns. These Master Plans and Feasibility Studies have been prepared by the JICA Study Team in close collaboration and consultation with UP Government and its concerned agencies in the four towns as well as taking into account the work already done and presently being done in these towns under NRCP.

2. As a part of the Development Study, JICA has also provided grant assistance for improvement of one ghat at Varanasi. Based on discussions with the local people and organizations in Varanasi, Manikarnika Ghat had been selected and an amount of around Rs. 75 lakhs was allocated for the purpose. The ghat improvement works have since been completed.

3. The JICA Study Team had submitted the Master Plan and Feasibility studies report for the sewerage and non-sewerage works in Varanasi town in the first phase during 2004-05 based upon which the JBIC have signed an agreement with the Government of India for providing loan for taking up the pollution abatement schemes of the river Ganga in this town at an estimated cost of Rs. 540 crore (13.248 billion Yen). The Feasibility Studies for the remaining three towns have been completed by JICA during 2005-06 and the reports submitted.

(c) In the Joint Statement signed between India and UK on 11th October, 2005, two countries have agreed on technology Co-operation for the abatement of pollution including water, air and soil pollution, which *inter-alia* includes water bodies. However, no specific proposal for extending help in cleaning of the Ganga and other major rivers has been received from the U.K.

(d) Does not arise.

**HIV infected blood transfusion in Kerala**

†*196. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a female baby of one and a half year was administered AIDS infected blood at a hospital in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether any one has been held guilty for this act;

(c) if so, the action taken against the accused so far, and the steps being taken for the treatment of the infected baby; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) As per the report submitted by Kerala State AIDS Control Society, a baby named "Reshmi" was found to

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.